



*Children & Families Commission*

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED FOR STANISLAUS COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**(Modesto)** -The Stanislaus County Children and Families Commission has announced the appointment of John Sims as Executive Director. Sims is a Senior Management Consultant for Stanislaus County and has an extensive background in program administration. He presently works in the Finance and Operations Division assisting county health and welfare departments.

"It's a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young children," said Sims. "It's a chance to experiment with programs and think out of the box. I'm looking forward to it."

As Executive Director, Sims will oversee the work of the nine member Commission that administers around 6 million dollars in Proposition 10 tobacco tax money. The Commission was established after California voters passed Prop.10 in 1998. The unprecedented ballot initiative levied a 50-cent tax on cigarettes to fund early childhood development programs from prenatal to age five and anti-tobacco education programs.

The Commission manages multi-million dollar programs aimed at improving the lives of children and families in Stanislaus County. In addition, Commissioners to date have awarded \$4.3 million in community mini-grants including funding for playground equipment and pilot programs targeting Commission priorities such as prevention of childhood obesity. Sims' appointment was announced at last night's Commission meeting.

"John's appointment is a huge plus for the Commission!" stated Dr. John Walker, Stanislaus County's Health Officer and Commission chair. "He brings his vast program management experience to the job, amplified by his dedication and enthusiasm."

Prior to joining Stanislaus County in 2001, Sims was a hospital administrator for Mark One Corporation where he was responsible for the administration, operation and management of skilled nursing facilities in Turlock and Ceres. Sims also has considerable experience in city/county administration including having served as City Manager for the City of Mill Creek, Washington and City Administrator for the City of Clarkson, also in Washington. Sims has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Stanislaus and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science/Public Service from the University of California at Davis.

He is presently a member of the Turlock High School Board of Trustees.